



PRESS RELEASE

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Illinois Rail Safety Week – Pedestrian Safety

ROCKFORD, ILL. – The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police is coordinating the third, statewide Illinois Rail Safety Week. During Illinois Rail Safety Week, which runs from September 11 to 17, 2016 the Rockford Police Department wants to promote safety for pedestrians around railroad tracks. Operation Lifesaver offers the following advice to help keep you safe when crossing railroad tracks:

- It is illegal, and considered trespassing, to walk on railroad tracks and in the right of way on either side of the tracks, or to climb on rail cars.
- Trains overhang the tracks by 3 feet on each side and sometimes up to five feet on each side.
- It is only safe and legal to cross the tracks at a designated public crossing with a crossbuck, flashing red lights or a gate. Crossing at any other place is trespassing.
- Locomotives are sometimes not at the front of a train; instead, a locomotive may be pushing the train.
- Do not cross the tracks until you can see clearly in each direction after the first train passes, because there may be a second train approaching.
- You must wait until the crossing signals stop and gates go up to legally cross the tracks.
- There are “quiet zones” at some railroad crossings. You may not hear a train approaching or you may believe the train is farther away than it actually is when in fact it is closer than you realize and moving faster than you think.
- You must use extra caution when crossing tracks with a wheelchair, baby stroller, or with any other item that has narrow wheels. Always cross the tracks at a ninety degree angle and consider walking across the tracks if possible.

If you would like more information about Illinois Rail Safety Week, please visit www.illinoisrailsafetyweek.org or contact the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police.

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